

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 OIC-02 /101 W

----- 105561

O R 181840Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7646

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06909

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, CI

SUBJECT: CHILE DEBT RESCHEDULING

REF: STATE 60252 (NOTAL)

1. WE RAISED URGENTLY WITH NEBOT REPORT FROM BONN THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO POSTPONE PARIS CLUB MEETING INDEFINITELY. HE EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD CUT SHORT HIS TRIP IN AFRICA AND RETURNED TO PARIS AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AFTER
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LEARNING THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS RELUCTANT TO CON-

TINUE WITH MEETING AT WHICH ONLY EC COUNTRIES PRESENT WOULD BE FRANCE AND GERMANY, WITH U.K., ITALY, NETHERLANDS, DENMARK AND BELGIUM BEING ABSENT. HE SAID BELGIAN DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE HAD TIPPED SCALES AGAINST FRENCH ATTENDANCE. WE ASKED HIM AT WHAT LEVEL THIS DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT, AND HE REPLIED "AT A VERY HIGH LEVEL."

2. PURSUANT REFTTEL WE THEN URGED NEBOT IN STRONGEST TERMS TO RECONSIDER DECISION ON POSTPONEMENT AND ISSUE INVITATIONS IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID IN EFFECT THAT HE NO LONGER HAD ANY FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THIS REGARD. HE PROPOSED THAT POSTPONEMENT SHOULD BE HANDLED IN AS LOW KEY A FASHION AS POSSIBLE, SIMPLY INDICATING TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS AND TO CHILE THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE MARCH 24 AND 25 DATES. HE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE WELL TO CALL A MEETING OF CREDITORS ONLY IN SOME TWO WEEKS TIME.

3. FOLLOWING THIS CONVERSATION ECONCOMMIN CALLED BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, AND URGED THAT MFA USE ITS INFLUENCE TO ENSURE THAT MEETING BE HELD AS SCHEDULED. ECONCOMMIN POINTED OUT THAT DECISION TO CANCEL BECAUSE FRANCE AND GERMANY WERE THE ONLY EC COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE CHILE DEBT CLUB WHO WOULD BE ATTENDING SIMPLY DIDN'T MAKE SENSE. THIS WAS NOT AN EC MATTER. THE DECISIVE FACT WAS THAT FOUR OF THE FIVE MAJOR CREDITOR COUNTRIES (THE U.S., JAPAN, THE FRG, FRANCE AND SPAIN ALL PLANNED TO ATTEND.

4. BRUNET AGREED THAT IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE TO POSTPONE THE MEETING IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWING THE MATTER IN RECENT WEEKS THE MFA DID INDEED HAVE A ROLE IN THE MATTER. HE PROMISED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BEFORE LEAVING FOR MOSCOW TOMORROW WITH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC TO OBTAIN A REVERSAL OF THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE MEETING INDEFINITELY.
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